

THE ATOMIC BOMB AND THE CROSS

"It is expedient"! This is the essence of the story of Jesus' death in as far as man was responsible for it.

"'You do not understand,' said Caiaphas the high priest to the Jews, 'that is expedient for you that one man should die for the people and that the whole nation should not perish' . . . So from that day on they took counsel how to put him to death."

So, John tells the story of the decision on the part of "the chief priests and the Pharisees" to plot the death of Jesus. He was not to be killed for his life, but rather because, "If we let him go on thus, every one will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation." For the security of the Jewish community it was "expedient" that Jesus "should die."

It is expedient! This is also the essence of the argument of those who promote the use of the atomic bomb. It is expedient! Not that we believe that the civilians who will be wiped out by the use of the atomic bomb are guilty of aggressive intentions toward other peoples but, to save our nation from Russian Militarists "it is expedient" and therefore necessary. Not, of course, that we believe all the people in America who will be wiped out in an atomic war, once it is started, are guilty of course *not*—but "it is expedient" that one man, or two, or a hundred or a million or 50 million should die "and that the whole nation should not perish."

"It Is Expedient"

This is the story of the plot to kill Jesus. Someone decided that "it is expedient" that *this person* should die rather than *these*.

This is also the story of preparation for an atomic war. Someone decides that "it is expedient" that *these persons* should die rather than *these*. When several nations have the atomic bomb and when several someones in several nations look at each other and decide "it is expedient" that these persons should die rather than these, and when "these persons who should die" may include half the population of the country's own country as well as that of the enemy, then the absurdity and viciousness of the whole expediency argument becomes apparent.

Under these circumstances the atomic bomb becomes the symbol of the ultimate ethical failure of the expediency argument and its towering cloud becomes the exclamation point to mark the utter futility of its use.

It is well for Christians to remember at Easter time that the argument of expediency was not the only one that was instrumental in the death of Jesus. There was also another argument embodied in the words of Jesus, "Not by will but thine be done." As far as our biblical writers have indicated it was not Caiaphas who finally decided the issue of Jesus' death but rather Jesus himself who accepted death for himself as the will of God. It was therefore the argument of self sacrifice

(Continued on page 3)

TOOLS AND INFORMATION (Refugee Resettlement)

Have you been wondering how you might best tell your people of the refugee resettlement program?

"The Signature"* is an excellent movie which will help your church people to see the refugees as individuals and answer specific questions about resettlement. Also available are two film strips: "Close Up"* (which interprets to adults and young people how refugees are being helped and pictures their present situation) and "Traveling Man"* (shows Church World Service going to all stricken areas).

* Each of these may be ordered from Audio Visual Aids Department, UCMS, 222 South Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana.

It is no longer necessary to offer a specific job for your refugee family! This new procedure will be a real boost to our resettlement program. *First*, this means you can offer a job in a general category. It should include however, (1) the type of skills necessary; (2) the hours of work per day and week; (3) the salary which must be the prevailing wage for your area and any other compensations; and (4) a brief summary of the duties involved. *Secondly*, this means that a validation of the job offer is no longer required from your local state employment service.

You will be able to cut short the long wait of these people. The Department of Social Welfare has a new list of refugees. They are waiting for you to act in their behalf. An immeasurably gratifying experience awaits you as you plan with your people "to do unto others what you would have others do unto you."

ELLA L. WILLIAMS

Work! Learn! Serve!

Through a work camp program young people *work* with their hands in a Christian community relationship to build roads, churches, homes, to make gardens, to preserve foods and to assist in repair jobs. Through work camps young people *learn* to understand other countries and their people, yes, even people of our own country who live and work in different cultural settings. Through work camps young people *serve* and demonstrate what the Christian faith means in practice.

The Disciples of Christ offer for the summer of 1955 the following work camp opportunities for young people between the ages of 18-30:

In the United States

- *Flanner House*, Indianapolis, July 5-August 24. Campers will assist in self-help housing projects, work with the maintenance staff, work in gardens and assist in preserving food. The minimum cost is \$90 plus travel.
- *All Peoples Church and Avalon Community Center*, Los Angeles, June 20-August 15. Campers will work under the direction of the staff in each institution to perform community tasks related to a church and settlement house program carried on in an area known as the "first port of entry" to this large American city. Minimum cost is \$120 plus travel.

Overseas

Jamaica, B.W.I., July 15-August 20 plus travel time. The project will be that of reconstructing church buildings damaged by the hurricane. Building skills would be helpful. Minimum cost is \$325 including travel. Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes Thompson, Jr. will be directors of this camp. Jamaican young people will be included in camp personnel.

(Continued on page 3)

FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY SUNDAY July 3, 1955 Plan Now!

- ♦ Freedom and Democracy Sunday will be observed this year on July 3.
- ♦ Materials to aid in your observance are in preparation. These materials will follow the pattern of last year using the theme "Without Freedom Truth is Sacrificed."
- ♦ In April a general mailing of the Department of Social Welfare sent to ministers will bring your church a sample poster and description of the responsive service, the youth service and the church school service.

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS-LETTER

Published monthly, except for joint July-August issue, by the Department of Social Welfare. The United Christian Missionary Society, 222 South Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana.

Subscription price 50c per year, \$1.00 for two years. Entered as second class mail matter September 2, 1943, at Indianapolis, Indiana, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Editorial Staff

Barton Hunter
Ruth E. Milner

Lewis H. Deer
Loisanne Buchanan

The opinions and points of view expressed in this publication are those of the editors and do not necessarily represent The United Christian Missionary Society.

STATE COMMISSIONS AT WORK COOPERATIVELY

In Northern California four workshops on social education and action were carried out in January under the joint sponsorship of the Commission on Social Education and Action of The Christian Churches of Northern California and the corresponding Commission of the American Baptist Convention of Northern California.

Gerald Ford, pastor of the Christian Church at San Jose was chairman of the Disciples Commission. Workshops were held at Selma First Christian Church, with Roy B. Weaklend as host pastor; at Chico, with Glenn E. Riddell as host pastor; at San Jose in the First Baptist Church, and at the Baptist Divinity School, Berkeley.

Peter Washington, pastor of Grove Street, Berkeley and president of The Christian Churches of Northern California was devotional leader and resource person for the Berkeley workshop.

The morning of these one-day meetings was given over to interest groups on such subjects as: Refugee Resettlement, Share Our Surplus, Liquor and Narcotics, Legislation, Migrant Work, Mental Health, Jail and Rehabilitation. Afternoon discussion groups were led by Dr. Donald Cloward, executive secretary of the Council on Christian Social Progress, American Baptist Convention and Lewis H. Deer of the Department of Social Welfare. These afternoon groups dealt with four questions: 1. How can the church become more effective in political action? 2. How can the churches support the aims and purposes of the UN? 3. What are specific projects which a local committee on social education and action can undertake? 4. Should churches be required to sign a loyalty oath?

This is the third time the Disciples of Christ in Northern California have cooperated with the American Baptists in holding such workshops.

RUTH E. MILNER

WASHINGTON ROUND-UP

Glenn D. Everett*

*Mr. Everett is a Washington Correspondent who writes for many Religious News Services.

UMT

It appears as this column is written that the forces opposed to Universal Military Training have succeeded in defeating or greatly modifying the manpower reserve proposals of the Pentagon which would have opened the door to starting UMT. Testimony by representatives of a number of religious groups including Methodists, Disciples, Quakers and the Church of the Brethren proved quite effective in opposing the measure.

A spokesman for the National Council of Churches presented a resolution on behalf of its 34 constituent denominations expressing alarm over the consequences that such a military program could have for American democracy.

In the end, the argument has been carried by the simple question of what practical benefit a program of six months basic training can contribute to military defense in an age of inter-continental guided ballistic missiles with hydrogen warheads.

Russia

We are writing this column at the end of a day spent with John H. Noble, a 31 year old native American, who was arrested in Germany in 1945 and released after ten years imprisonment in the Soviet Union on January 8th of this year. It is encouraging to hear from him of the strong opposition to Communism which still survives in Russia in spite of every instrument of authoritarianism. John Noble is convinced that Russia is basically weak because the people themselves are disgusted with the system, its inequalities, its injustices, and, above all, its complete inefficiency. To cite just one example, substantiating his observation, workers late three times in a month are liable to a 7-year forced labor sentence. So each railroad station has a "spovchka" window where, when the train is late, as it often is, the workers can get an excuse stating it was late. A line of 200 to 300 workers wait up to half an hour to get a slip explaining why they were 10 minutes late. Such inefficiency is characteristic of a bureaucracy that feels it must control every moment of its citizens' lives.

Noble does not think Soviet leaders dare go to war. What do the Russian people have to fight for, he asks? This confirms our own observation in the Soviet zone of Europe during a personal visit several years ago, that America's "secret weapon" is psychological, not military. The fanatics in the Kremlin, not the downtrodden Russian people are our enemies. What do the Russian people have to fight for? Would they fight?

Turnabout Witnesses

A good deal of humor has been in-

jected into the Congressional picture by turn-about witness Harvey Matusow, his "stringless yo-yo" and embarrassing testimony that he was paid to tell lies about Democratic candidates for the Senate in 1952. The problem however, presented by the willingness of the Department of Justice to use even the most unscrupulous anti-Communists in an effort to obtain convictions of American citizens is far from funny. Matusow is an obviously unstable personality; so was Marie Harris Natvig. This writer, who has known Marie Harris as a thoroughly notorious woman for many years, finds it extremely disturbing to see the government of the United States rely on her testimony to convict anybody of anything. The case of the FCC vs Edward Lamb is going to go down in history as a shameful chapter in American government. We can believe some ex-communists some of the time, but we certainly can't believe all of them all of the time.

Reciprocal Trade

Speaker Sam Rayburn took to the well of House and saved reciprocal trade by one vote. It was a queer turn-about situation with the Democrats plugging hard for a bill the Republican administration offered, while most Republicans, expressing their traditional high-tariff convictions, fought against it. This situation of tangled party lines is apt to be repeated several times this session.

Ike Again?

Despite the marked division between the President's opinions and that of many members of his party, he is regarded by the GOP as the indispensable man for 1956 even though they don't like that phrase, recalling how derisively they used it when the Democrats under FDR found themselves in the same situation. Ike has his 1-A card from the GOP draft board for next year. The only question is whether he will have the same running mate.

Tax Reduction

The strategy behind the Democrats' disputed \$20 tax cut is to put the President behind the political "8-ball." He said he was going to come up in 1956 with a tax reduction. Now he either does, or he has to explain (in an election year) why not, and if he offers a different proposal, he has to explain why his is better than the Democrats' straight cut. Meanwhile, with the budget still out of balance, it is apparent that the tax benefit to stockholders and the cut in excise taxes on furs and other luxuries actually noted last year will come at the expense of borrowing money at 3% per year ad infinitum. The public would probably support an increase in taxes rather than see the national debt constantly go up, but politicians would hardly believe that.

MATERIAL AID and SERVICE GIFTS

The material aid program of our brotherhood is a very real expression of our church people's desire to share their material blessings with other peoples of the world.

During the six months from July 1 to December 31, 1954 the Department of Social Welfare received 872 separate parcels. It has sorted, packed and shipped 4528 pounds of goods to refugee centers in Europe, to Belgian Congo, the Philippines, Japan, Korea and the home mission institutions. Some of the goods also went to general relief handled by Church World Service. The quality of goods now received is in general excellent. More and more groups are including cash contributions to help defray the shipping and handling costs which in turn enlarges the scope of the program.

A few items have been received in such quantities that it is necessary to detail the projects for the present. The Department is asking that groups

(Continued on page 4)

Work! Learn! Serve!

(Continued from Page 1)

Mountain of Light Farm, near Palmaron, Mexico, July 15-August 20. Campers, including some Mexican young people, will help to construct a building at youth conference grounds. Knowledge of Spanish would be an asset. Minimum cost is \$220 including travel. Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Reed will direct this work camp.

Adult Director's Camp

At Flanner House in Indianapolis the adult director's camp will be conducted June 7-16.

It is being held in a setting which will provide a training experience in genuine work camp procedures and philosophy. The work camp committee wishes to enlist married couples who will take the training and then serve as directors of camps either this summer or in the future. Couples giving consideration to this type of service should be those who have had experience in leading young people, who are free of racial prejudice, who have ability to make positive decisions and to act just quickly and who possess a general attitude of friendliness.

Cost is \$25 plus travel. Mr. and Mrs. James Lollis will direct the camp.

Ecumenical Work Camps

A few places still are available for qualified young people to serve in the ecumenical work camps sponsored by the Youth Department of The World Council.

Scholarships

Limited scholarship aid is available for applicants who have been approved by the Work Camp Committee.

For complete information and application blanks write to Ruth E. Milner, 22 So. Downey Ave., Indianapolis 7, Indiana.

Summer Institutes

Two Institutes on Racial and Cultural Relations are being planned for the summer of 1955. These Institutes, now in the seventh year, are sponsored by seven communions in cooperation with the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations of the National Council of Churches.

Currently the plans are to hold an Institute at Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, July 18-23, and another at Pepperdine College, Los Angeles, August 1-6.

The Department of Social Welfare will provide some scholarship aid to persons selected to represent the Disciples of Christ in either of these Institutes.

LEWIS H. DEER

Atom Bomb and the Cross

(Continued from page 1)

rather than the argument of expediency which explains the cross and filled it with meaning.

"For this I was born and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth" said Jesus, knowing that if he persisted in speaking the truth which would save mankind he himself must die.

More important still he knew that what he taught would lead his followers likewise into death for the sake of those who did not understand and who for expediency's sake would kill those who opposed them. Said he, "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. . . . Remember the word I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.'"

These are the terrific historical facts of the first Easter. Men were willing for expediency's sake—for the sake of saving themselves, and their interests and their nation to kill another man—even as are many of us today. But one man was willing to die (not kill) for the sake of his fellowmen—including his enemies and he told his followers that theirs was to be the same path in life.

The Christian dares not blink these facts. If Jesus had adopted the argument of expediency in answer to the same argument used by his enemies—if he had said "It is expedient that I live at all costs even if my followers must kill to preserve my life"—then the cross would be only a symbol of an embittered and frustrated failure. As it is the cross became the symbol of self sacrificial love revealed in the life of Jesus and his Disciples. This is the fact of Easter.

Two symbols tower on the horizons of our world today—the mushroom cloud of the atomic bomb—the symbol of expediency and the cross of Christ—the symbol of self sacrificial love. The Christian must choose.

BARTON HUNTER

IN LOCAL CHURCHES and COMMUNITIES

One hundred thirty-six churches have reported their observance of *Race Relations Sunday, February 13, 1955.*

(We know from past experience that we will be receiving "We-Did-It" sheets from other churches from now until June.) We also know that not one in ten of the churches that observed the day will remember to write us about what occurred.

The following comments, taken from the reports received indicate some of the activities and programs planned to observe the day:

A Guest Minister of Another Race (30 churches)

"This was the first time a Negro ever preached for that matter ever worshiped in our church." (Alabama)

Combined Congregational Service (2 churches)

"We had a joint congregational Sunday night service with a Negro church here in Dallas. Our choirs were combined; and an elder from each church presided, one minister officiated while the other preached and we had one of the most worshipful services of the past year! Our Chi-Rho and C.Y.F. are planning a follow-up meeting soon." (Texas)

Inter Faith Exchange

"We had our 10th annual pulpit exchange with Rabbi . . . Men's club of (our church) and Men's club of the Jewish Center observed 8th annual combined meeting. We meet alternate years at church and synagogue. (Connecticut)

Community Inter-racial Service (25 churches)

"As part of the Chain of Missions program in our city. We had outstanding Negro speakers both at morning service and for evening youth rally. About 300 young people attended, including 35 from Negro churches." (Florida)

Choir-Pulpit Exchange (14 churches)

"We exchanged choirs and ministers with Negro church. Both services had packed churches." (Illinois)

Members Bring Guests (13 churches)

"We arranged to have our members bring guests of other races to the morning service. We had 16 guests. We had the Quartet from (Negro) church and our speaker was a native of Chile." (Indiana)

Congregational Visit (3 churches)

"The Negro congregation came to our church for the morning worship—their minister bringing the message. We went to their church in the evening where our minister was speaker. It was a high experience for all who participated. A majority of both congregations entered fully into the service. A few of each refused to attend either service." (Iowa)

LEWIS H. DEER

FOOD FOR LIFE vs WASTE and STARVATION

More than 4,500 letters and tiny bags of grain, bearing the inscription "If Thine Enemy Hunger—Feed Him," "Send Surplus Foods to China" have steadily flowed into the White House and have been answered by the Foreign Operations Administration.

These have come from a host of American people who look with disturbed conscience upon the bulging food surpluses of America in the face of the facts of starvation in China which is a result of the angry flood waters of the Yangtze river last summer. In this report of the pile-up of FOA's correspondence is concrete evidence that our government representatives will take account of direct mail from their constituency when it comes and is specific in its message.

True, at this writing, food surpluses are not on their way to China. Also true, however, is the fact that a steadily growing number of appeals to the FOA for action on "food for China" have served to place the human issue in proper focus and decisive action is called for.

Another index to the recognized importance of the issue is revealed in the March 6, 1955 New York Times which carried a special news article with picture and interview statements made by Harold Stassen, Director of the FOA and Alfred Hassler, Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

(FOR is the organization which initiated the use of the miniature bags of wheat to express to our government a concern that America take responsible action to relieve the hunger and suffering of Chinese men, women and children whose lives hang in balance between food surpluses and waste.)

Principal opposition has come from the U.S. State Department and from political supporters of the Chinese Communist regime. The February issue of "Fellowship" (published by the FOR) states:

"The State Department acknowledges that there has been great suffering as a result of the floods, but argues that (a) the Peiping Government would not accept our offer, and (b) would ship the grain to Russia if she did accept it.—(Answers: (a) We cannot know that they would not accept it until the offer is made, and (b) this cynical appraisal may be justified, but again we cannot know that it will be—in advance. In any case our responsibility is to make the food available; if the Peiping Government is callous enough to divert food from its own hungry people, that will have its own effect on world opinion and within China itself.)"

The concern of many Disciples of Christ churchmen and women has been evident in the requests which have come for 10, 20 or more bags to send to friends who believe that "American surpluses are a reproach to the American conscience."

There are other facts in current news which have a relationship to the Food for China proposal, namely:

(1) President Eisenhower's offer to send Communist ruled Albania \$850,000 worth of surplus foods to relieve famine and (2) other surplus foods totaling \$10,000,000 have been channeled through the League of Red Cross Societies and reached six European countries including Communist dominated Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany.

"If Thine Enemy Hunger — Feed Him."

A BELL WILL RING

On May 2 an unusual bell will ring out to proclaim the right of all men to lead productive and fruitful lives. It will announce the beginning of Mental Health Month.

The National Association for Mental Health has cast a bell from chains and shackles formerly used in American hospitals to restrain the mentally ill. While mental illness still is "the neglected hinterland* we as a nation have come to the place where we do recognize mental disturbance as an illness. Some progress is being made in trying to provide treatment both on an out-patient and institutional basis.

There is a rising tide of mental illness and it is recognized as a significant factor in alcoholism, narcotics addiction, crime, juvenile delinquency, suicide and divorce. At least nine million Americans suffer from mental or emotional disorders. Mental hospitals have as many patients as all other hospitals combined, these being only a fraction of the number who need care.

Another aspect of this national tragedy is the shortage of trained personnel. Dr. William C. Menninger estimates that "there are less than one-third of the needed psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and nurses to meet the current demands of hospitals, clinics and other organizations desiring their services."

To make proper treatment available in time is the goal of the National Association for Mental Health. Churches and church agencies can help by supporting Mental Health Month and participating in the programs of state and local mental health organizations.

*Wm. C. Menninger

RUTH E. MILNER

Material Aid

(Continued from page 3)

do not send used Christmas cards, rolled bandages and used eye glasses until further notice. Needed items include bedding, sewing kits, children's clothing (all ages), yard goods, feed sacks and high potency multiple vitamins.

The Department endeavors to send two large shipments a year to the mission fields where it is possible to get goods into the country without too much duty.

Mrs. J. T. Allen, is employed by the Department and renders immeasurable service by doing all the sorting, packing and checking in of gifts.

RUTH E. MILNER

IOWA FIFTH ANNUAL INSTITUTE

The fifth annual state Institute on Social Education and Action sponsored by the Iowa State Commission on Christian Action and the Department of Social Welfare was held in January at the Park Avenue Christian Church, Des Moines. The theme of this year's Institute was "The Church and Minority Groups." Guest leaders were Dr. David M. Fulcomer, Professor of Sociology, Iowa State College; Dr. W. O. Gill, Dean of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas; Lloyd H. Olson, Regional Director, National Conference of Christians and Jews; Harold Young, Executive Director, Iowa Temperance League; Lewis H. Deer, Department of Social Welfare.

Mrs. Edwin Becker of Des Moines was the worship leader for the Institute. Members of the Iowa Commission participating in the program were Paul Waters, Chairman; Mrs. Tom Slavens, Sac City; R.G.W. Collins, Creston; Mrs. P.G. Marshall, Cedar Rapids.

An interesting feature of the institute was a symposium "It Is Being Done" in which representatives of three Iowa churches with racially inclusive membership reported how integration had taken place.

CAPRA ENROLLMENT OPENING

CAPRA's second enrollment period opens this month to offer to local churches the opportunity of CAPRA's program service.

Books—pamphlets—

reprints—movies and filmstrips.

- These are among carefully selected program helps, with accompanying suggestions on ways to use, available to enrolled churches. These are selected to help local church committees and leaders develop and strengthen the church's program of social education and action.

- CAPRA's program service is available now for \$35.00 a year. ENROLL NOW! APRIL, 1955, for a year of CAPRA. Write the Department of Social Welfare, UCMS, 222 South Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana.

Quips and Quotes

"Unless there are drastic changes in the church, then the church will be as far away from the community in integration as the caboose is behind the locomotive. . . The segregated church gave rise to the segregated school. Integration has brought the church face to face with the need for complete change. Our children won't be content to study in integrated schools and still worship the same God in a segregated church. The church is in the rear guard on integration and not in the vanguard—Dr. Earl C. Jackson, Principal of Bancroft Junior High School, Wilmington, Delaware.